(d) whether any action has been taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Bonded Labourers in India

59. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 15 million people, including five million children work as bonded labourers in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons that International Labour Organisation's figure is in sharp contrast to the Government's figure ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : (a) and (b) According to official figures furnished by the State Governments 2,51,069 bonded labourers have been identified.

(c) The World Labour Report 1993 mentions that "the ILO Committee of Experts noted in 1991 estimates by Anti-slavery International that 5 million adults and 10 million children were bonded". Thus the figures quoted in the Report are the estimates of a private body and not necessarily that of the International Labour Organisation.

Ratification ILO Convention on Occupational Safety

60. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to ratify the ILO Convention on Occupational Safety in work environment and health of workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) ILO Convention No. 155 concerning Occupational Safety, Health and Working Environment, which was adopted in 1981, applies to all branches of economic activity and to all workers with the possibility of excluding certain activities like maritime shipping or fishing. Although India has a large body of legislation on occupational safety and health, the main difficulty in the way of ratification has been the lack of statutory cover to economic activities in the unorganised sector such as agriculture, building and construction.

ILO Assistance to Eliminate Child Labour

61. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Labour Organisation has extended a $ 2.5 million assistance this year to work towards eliminating child labour problem from India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the manner in which Government propose to allot the funds to Government and Non-Government agencies involved in child labour problems; and

(d) what are the details of their specific projects aimed at eliminating child labour, protecting the rights of working children, improving their working conditions, and educating them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) The Programme Steering Committee of ILO has earmarked US $ 2.25 million (equivalent to Rs. 6.97 crores approx.) for the International Programme on the Elimination of

Child Labour (IPEC) in India for the period ending 31st December, 1993.

(c) To ensure proper implementation of the programme, a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprising representatives of Government, employers, workers and N.G.Os has been constituted. For selection of programmes to be recommended to ILO after due scrutiny, the NSC has framed broad guidelines. Programmes recommended by the NSC are considered for approval by the programme Steering Committee of ILO. Funds are released to the organisations directly after they enter into sub-contracts with ILO.

(d) Thirty action programmes covering about 9,600 working children throughout the country have so far been sanctioned under IPEC. These are focussed on children in industries (15 programmes), in agricultural sector (3) and those working in the informal and service sectors (12). In addition to awareness generation meant for the parents of working children and the community at large, the programmes envisage welfare activities such as non-formal education, nutritional assistance, health check-ups and vocational training.

Housing scheme for P. F. subscribers

62. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are launching a Housing Scheme through Local Housing Boards for employees who subscribe to the Provident Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting with I.L.O. officials

63. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ILO's Deputy Director General Horbert Maier and Ms. Dalmer D. Hoskins, Secretary-General of International Social Security Association met to discuss the new proposals of cooperation between India and the International Labour Organisation, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 8th April, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof, particularly, relating to the employment generation in the rural/urban area, International programme of elimination of child labour, development of social security institution, and occupational safety measures in plants/refineries; and

(c) whether India has agreed to ratify ILO convention 1990, if so, which are the other countries who have already ratified and also those who have yet to do so ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) Mr. Heribert Maier, Deputy Director General, International Labour Organisation, Geneva and Mr. Dalmer D. Hoskins, Secretary-General of International Social Security Association, Geneva who came to attend the XIII World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health held in New Delhi on April 4-8, 1993 separately called on the Minister of State for Labour on 7-4-93. These were courtesy calls where various issues concerning labour were informally discussed.

(c) There is no "ILO Convention, 1990."

Disputes pending with Tribunals of Delhi

64. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :